



Photos by Ann Chris Powell



Learning gets students all wet

(Above) Eric Ramsteid teaches a student how to execute a proper backstroke Tuesday at the base swimming pool. (Left) Ramsteid and Natasha Nault lead the students around the pool with "floaties" Tuesday at the base pool. Lesson times are: 9 a.m. to noon weekdays. Lap swim times are: noon to 12:45 weekdays. Open swim times are: 1 to 7:45 p.m. weekdays.

Water report posted on Distro F, hotline

Information in the May 25 publication of the annual water table was inadvertently omitted.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections.

These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

If anyone has any questions about this report or the water utility contact John Wandke, Great Falls Water Supply System, at 727-1325, Maj Ed Laferty, Malmstrom Bioenvironmental Engineering 731-4409, or Dave Heckler, Malmstrom Environmental Flight at 731-7099. A copy of the consumer report on water quality will not automatically be mailed to every customer, although it is available upon request from Bioenvironmental Engineering at 731-4409.

The annual water report for Malmstrom is posted on Distro: F.

(Courtesy Malmstrom Bioenvironmental Engineering.)

Roche, Ryan speak about AF issues

By SSgt Amy Parr
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON - Dr. James G. Roche, appearing before Congress for the first time as secretary of the Air Force, and Gen Michael Ryan, Air Force chief of staff, addressed the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense about the 2001 budget June 6.

During the hearing, they spoke of people, readiness, infrastructure and equipment.

"I'm happy to say this year we are making our recruitment goal, both in terms of quality and quantity," Gen Ryan said. "Our major challenge is retaining our best and brightest to stay with us for a career."

While Gen Ryan said there's been a drop in readiness over the last few years, it has slowed down. Still, he said, more needs to be done to retain troops and improve or replace aging equipment and infrastructure.

An additional \$33 million in supplemental increases were requested this year for recruiting and retention programs. Gen Ryan said re-enlistment bonuses have been used to retain people and keep them in the Air Force for second and third tours. Increases were also requested to address other personnel issues like health care shortages and basic housing allowances.

While quality-of-life issues are important for attracting and retaining people, Gen Ryan said quality of service is, as well. Quality of service means giving airmen the

SECAF: Retention, family related to mission

By SSgt Amy Parr
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Retaining troops and families are directly related to the Air Force mission, according to the new Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. James G. Roche.

"If someone leaves work, and doesn't feel (he or she is) valued ... then I think (that person has) every right to say, 'you don't value me the way you should value me,'" Secretary Roche said. "Can we get everything fixed at once? No. Can we do our best? Sure. Have there been years where things have not had attention paid to them? Yes. Can we fix them overnight? No. Can we make progress toward it? Yes!"

"I believe it is far better to retain someone who wants to be

retained and who is an absolutely constructive member of the Air Force," he said.

If retention is done well, Secretary Roche said, recruiting will also fall into place.

Secretary Roche, who cites marrying his wife Diane nearly 40 years ago as his greatest accomplishment, said he also understands how important families are. He said families play an integral part in the retention picture.

"Families have to put up with so many inconveniences in order for the serving member to do what we ask, that we often forget they are as courageous as the member," he said. "My family is a military family, and I know the subject well. If it were not for the superb support of Air Force families, we would not have the Air Force we have."

proper tools to do their jobs.

"Quality of service is not just about equipment with which they operate, but the hangars and buildings and shops in which they must work," he said. "We all know quality begets quality. And, as you know, we have underfunded our capital equipment and our infrastructure for too long and we must turn the aging problem around."

Secretary Roche said the Air Force is losing people mid-career and that problem needs to be addressed. Although he said the financial aspect of being in the military is improving, more improvement is needed, especially in terms of career planning and mentoring.

"(General Ryan and I) are both seized with the fact that we have an enormous amount of time and money (invested) in these very high-caliber people," he said. "We can't have them leave us. And so we intend to make this a major effort for the Air Force in the next couple of years. Principally on retention, we believe that the force that retains will be the force that will attract."

The bottom line is this, Secretary Roche and Gen Ryan said. The Air Force protects the nation's interests across the board. From contingency operations to humanitarian assistance, aerospace power has been crucial to theater commanders for provid-

ing quick and decisive actions in support of national interests.

Although the United States has the highest quality force in the world, there are concerns for the future, according to Secretary Roche and Gen Ryan. In joint written remarks, they said the future organization, concepts of operation and capabilities in consideration of the changing global security environment must be evaluated. The Air Force must recapitalize and modernize its force through emphasizing science and technology, improving partnerships with industry, expanding capabilities in space and becoming more efficient in all its efforts.